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Harvard at the Bat

Evidently seeking a scapegoat to blame for the Cuban invasion fiasco besides himself, President Kennedy has picked on the Central Intelligence Agency and ordered a sweeping review of its work since its organization by President Eisenhower in 1956; to dig up information abroad.

President Kennedy had already established his own new foreign intelligence advisory board, headed by Dr. James R. Killian Jr. of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, described by the White House as a reactivation "under broadened terms of reference" of the board of consultants on foreign intelligence activities, and outlined its assignment:

"To advise the President with respect to the objectives and conduct of the foreign intelligence and related activities of the United States which are required in the interests of foreign policy and national defense and security."

That uneasiness over the foreign affairs situation has also hit Harvard University which "provided so much of the brain power for the Kennedy administration," as revealed in a report from William H. Chamberlin from Cambridge, Mass. to his paper, the Wall Street Journal, showing that Harvard has become a main center of protest against and dissent from the administration's Cuban policy. Mr. Chamberlin who became well known from his World War II reports from Moscow to the New York Times writes:

"Be Nice to Castro" movement has acquired momentum under the leadership of some Harvard professors and with the support of a small but vociferous minority of Harvard students. A recent meeting in one of the larger university classrooms attracted an audience of 300-400 which roared applause for "no intervention" speeches by H. Stuart Hughes, professor of history, and Nadav Safran, assistant professor of government. The meeting sent 127 protesting telegrams to Washington and voted in favor of a resolution calling for a reversal of "the present tilt toward American military intervention in Cuba."

The idea developed was that if the United States would only be nice to Castro, the bearded dictator would desert the Soviet bloc and "all would live happily forever afterwards." Holes were picked in the American White Paper on Cuba, written by the historian Prof. Arthur Schlesinger Jr., whose name was jeered by those assembled.

Among the speakers was Professor Hughes, grandson of the former Chief Justice, who called for a few resounding resignations, beginning with Adlai Stevenson, "a great American who has been reduced to the level of a shyster lawyer pleading a bad case."

This meeting, says Chamberlin, was the climax of a campaign marked by editorials and letters to the university daily newspaper, the Harvard Crimson and "justifies its name," but there is no indication that even a large number of Harvard faculty and students condones the appeasement of Castro. And Mr. Chamberlin suggests that a detailed document survey of United States-Cuba relations, since Castro came into power "might help decide some wavering minds in Latin America if not at Harvard."—G. P.